MEMORIAL

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

TO THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1865.

Mr. CHADWICK presented the following memorial of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, which was ordered to be printed in the Journal:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

The trustees of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania fail that they would be greatly derelict in duty to the industrial classes of Pennsylvania, whose representatives they are, did they allow the bill (No. 319), repealing those portions of the act of April 1st, 1863, which appropriates the interest of the proceeds of the Agricultural College land scrip to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, and the bill read in place by the Senator from Somerset and the member from Union, dividing the scrip into six parts, and appropriating one such thereof to the University of Lewisburg; one sixth to Allegheny College, at Meadville; one-sixth to Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg; one-sixth to the Western University, at Pittsburg; one-sixth to the trustees of the Polytechnic College of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia; and the remaining one-sixth to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, in Centre county—to become laws, without their most earnest remonstrance, and without their most solemn protest, hereby do, on behalf of their constituents, their solemn protest.

The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania was incorporated by the act of 1st April, 1855, [P. L. 46.] under the name of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, at the instance and request of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, to supply a thorough scientific, practical education to the sons of the industrial classes, composing the State and to extend the benefits of the act so as to low a rate as to be within the limited means and small profits of the farmer and mechanic. As well to lessen the expenses as to elevate and dignify the educational labor the associators with the *acquisition* of scientific knowledge, it was determined to require from every student from ten years of age to the thirteenth of manual labor, daily, as a condition of his entrance and of his continuance at the institution.

That the college might not be diverted from its great purpose, the direction of the moneys, its government and control was committed by the act of incorporation entirely and exclusively to the industrial classes themselves. The Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the President of the Pennsylvania State agricultural society, and the Principal of the institution were, by specific name members of the board, and they, with nine gentlemen named in the act, constituted the first board of trustees—it being provided that the successors thereafter, to the non ex-officio members, should, by themselves and by lot, be divided into three classes of three each, to hold office two, two and three years. The appointment thereby made of class number one to terminate in one year—of class number two to terminate in two years, and of class number three to terminate in three years, and annually upon the termination of the office of said directors, and annually thereafter, vacancies to be supplied by the appointment by the board of trustees, to be determined by the votes of the members of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania State agricultural society, composed of one member from each congressional district, and by the votes of three representatives, duly chosen by each county agricultural society in the Commonwealth, which should have been organized for at least three months preceding the time of election. The term of office of the nine trustees named in the act having long since expired, and vacancies have from year to year been filled by elections held at the institution in the manner prescribed by the act. The farm of office of three of the trustees expires annually. The college buildings have been completed within the last year. For five years the institution has been successfully conducted in the west wing and main, but the east wing, one third of the entire building, filled from year to year to its full capacity—one hundred students. The means of professorships and scientific instruction imparted are not surpassed by any college in the State. The practicability and expediency of the union of manual labor with the acquisition of scientific knowledge have been clearly demonstrated, the president and professors all uniting in the opinion that the students have made greater advances in the sciences than they would have made had no manual labor been required. The charges for tuition, board, fuel, washing, &c., have been reduced to the lowest figure possible. For the last two years the expenses, including the products of the farm consumed and sold, have greatly exceeded that sum, but in view of the low rates fixed for the future, and under the act of 1863, and for the benefit of the industrial classes, the trustees are being established in Allegheny county for the education of the literary colleges to prevent the sale of the land scrip, and to effect the repeal of the act, compelled the trustees to raise the charges to two hundred dollars per annum. A charge of one hundred and twenty-five dollars instead of one hundred dollars, as each student is in addition to his labor, would have paid the entire expenses and left the institution free from debt, current expenses and improvements. This is a sum much less than one-half the necessary expenses at any other respectable college in the State.

The boys leave most respectfully to submit for your consideration several reasons why the sections of the act of 1863, appropriating the interest of the proceeds of the land scrip to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, should not be repealed, and then several reasons why the literary colleges asking the repeal should receive no portion of the fund.

REASONS WHY THE ACT SHOULD NOT BE REPEALED.

First. Because the Agricultural College of 1862—is a State institution, under the government and control of the industrial classes for whose benefit the fund was founded—has been erected at an expense of about two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, one hundred thousand dollars of which have been contributed by the State, seventy-five thousand dollars of which have been contributed by dividends and agricultural societies, and fifty thousand dollars of which have been borrowed.

Second. Because the labors of the trustees of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, were steadily and persistently directed to the procurement of this very endowment fund, at the same time they were engaged in the erection of the college buildings; and the institution never would have had existence, but from the confident expectation of a liberal endowment arising from the proceeds of the public lands.

Third. Because the College buildings are more substantial and complete, and better adapted to afford facilities in imparting a thorough practical, scientific education than those of any college in the world.

Fourth. Because of the scrip proceeds of the fund will not be too large for the endowment of one institution, and should therefore be kept together, for the reasons of the late President, Dr. Evan Pugh, in his unanswerable argument before the Judiciary Committee of the House in 1864—a printed copy of which has been laid upon the desk of every member.

It was a part of the original design of the trustees to lay off three acres of the one hundred acres of land belonging to the college as a purely *experimental farm*, the result of every experiment to be recorded in books provided for the purpose, and published. It was also a part of the original design of the trustees to establish a veterinary department of scientific excellence—to convert the remaining three hundred and fifty acres of the college lands into a *model farm*, to be farmed as every farmer in the State should farm his lands, with an eye to *reasonable production and profits*, selecting only those grains and vegetables and adopting only those modes of culture which had uniformly succeeded on the experimental farm—to stock the model farm with the most approved breeds of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, &c., that the farmers of the State could be induced to adopt as the most profitable source of supply—to provide the farm with the greatest variety of implements of husbandry, &c., that after being thoroughly tried, the very best only may be recommended for general use.

Ten thousand dollars spent yearly upon the experimental farm would have to the agriculturists of the community more than a thousand fold of dollars annually spent by them in useless and foolish experiments, ignorantly inspected by every farmer from the year of the record of results which this institution proposes to keep and publish from time to time.

The department for veterinary instruction and practice, the stocking of the farm, the purchase of the improved implements, &c., &c., will necessarily require large investments. Besides all this, a course of taste and beauty, calculated to make the students proud of the labors of their hands, must be imparted to the college campus and gardens connected with the institution. To be left alone and suffered to receive the proceeds of the college land scrip, the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania will most inevitably go down and its doors be closed to the industrial classes for whom, as well the fund as the college, was founded, and to the fund that has been invested by the State, societies and individuals will be lost.

This allegation is not made as a threat with a view improperly to influence the vote of any member upon the bills before them, but under a high sense of duty and with a solemn conviction of its truth.

But, secondly, reasons why the literary colleges asking the repeal should have no part of the proceeds of the land scrip:

First. Because no literary college in the State comes within either the letter or the spirit of the act of Congress of the 24 July, 1862, which limits the grant to education of men for the pursuit and practice of the learned professions, and not for the pursuit and practice of the industrial occupations of life. No one of the literary colleges asking the repeal are under the control of boards of trustees named in the acts of incorporation, and others named by the Governor of Ohio in his late message, an exercise for which a heresy impeaches.

Second. Because all those asking the repeal are under the control of boards of trustees named in the acts of incorporation, and others named by the Governor, the trustees being in no way or manner responsible to the industrial classes for whose benefit the fund was created. See acts of incorporation as follows:

1846, February 5th, the University of Lewisburg incorporated—P. L. page 32.

1817, March 28th, Allegheny College incorporated—P. L. page 236.

1832, April 7th, Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg incorporated—P. L. page 34.

1853, April 1st, the Methodist Episcopal Polytechnic College at Philadelphia incorporated—P. L. page 305.

1855, April 1st, the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, now the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, incorporated—P. L. page 46.

1849, February 18th, the Western University in Allegheny county incorporated—P. L. page 94.

Third. Because the University of Lewisburg, the Allegheny College, at Meadville, and the Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, are sectarian institutions, under the control of trustees of their respective denominations.

One of these institutions, at least, is encumbered by scholarships sold years ago, given to beneficiaries, and the endowment insufficient to fill the college for many years to come. If on account of this appropriation of pleasure, the mortgage of the energies of the institution—a Methodist College has been included, why are Lafayette, Washington and Jefferson, Presbyterian College, reported to be in the same predicament, not asking?

Why are the colleges and parochial schools of other large and respectable denominations left out? Had the trustees of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania been thus sold scholarships, would it not have justly deterred even that institution from all claim to the land scrip?

Fourth. Because it is not proposed to remodel these colleges so as to make the leading object of the institutions those sciences bearing upon agriculture and the mechanic arts, but to establish a department the leading object of which shall be, &c.

Fifth. Because in some of those literary institutions it is proposed to establish a course with the agricultural and mechanical departments which they propose to establish, which is indispensable to an industrial college.

Sixth. Because, if the appropriation could be construed to answer the requisition of the grant, and manual labor were required of the students in the department, whilst the students in the other departments of the same institution were exempt from labor, the department must fail, simply because labor is odious to be done by being required of all. The necessities of poverty thus brought in contrast and in contest with the immunities of wealth, have ceased and always will cause the failure of every manual labor institution thus organized. Labor must be required of all or of none.

Much has been said in relation to what other States have realized and expect to realize from their land scrip, and in relation to a supposed disposition on the part of the commissioners under the act of 1863, to sell for less than the scrip was really worth, yet no scrip has been sold for so high as the twelve thousand acres sold by the commissioners of Iowa, although a distinguished Senator is reported to have said in his argument before the committee, to whom was referred the bill to repeal the act of 1863, that the scrip was really worth, yet no scrip has been sold for so high as